I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Agriculture

Works done by the European specialist in paddy-breeding.

*1920 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the officer deputed from the Agricultural department for learning plant-breeding with reference to paddy has returned after training from Cambridge;

(b) if so, when he is taking charge of the paddy section;

(c) whether it is a fact that the short-term contract European specialist is paid a very high salary;

(d) what is the amount he is paid per mensem and what is the salary of the newly-trained man;

(e) whether it is a fact that the short-term officer has been devoting much of his time to the administrative part of his duties to the neglect of research work;

(f) whether he has been simply following the work of his predecessor or whether he has chalked out any new lines of work;

(g) how many times approximately he has visited the paddy-breeding station at Coimbatore during the current year;

(h) whether he visits the main station and the sub-stations, directs the experiments and examines the research work or whether he simply checks the office work; and

(i) whether the Government propose to extend the period of his time any more and if so, on what grounds?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) When the term of contract of the present holder of the office expires in November 1930 or if and when he takes leave preparatory to the end of his contract about June 1930.

(c) & (d) His salary is Rs. 1,650 in scale of Rs. 1,500—50—1,700 and an officer of his qualifications and experience could not be secured for a lower salary. The newly-trained officer belongs to the Madras Agricultural Service and his salary is Rs. 425 in the scale of Rs. 250—25—750.

(e) He is bound to devote a great deal of time to administrative duties but proposals have been made by the Director and accepted by Government which will lighten these duties and leave him more time for research.

(f) He has continued the work of his predecessor but has also struck out several new lines of his own.

(g) His headquarters are at Coimbatore and he probably visits the paddy-breeding station there every day.

(h) He visits the sub-stations regularly and directs the work which is being done there.

(i) The Government have no such proposal under consideration.

27th March 1929]

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I ask the hon. the Minister for Development what the period of contract of this short-term contract special European officer is ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"Five years."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"How long more has he to serve ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"It is given in the answer, namely, until November 1930."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I know why the salary of the specialist who has been trained in Cambridge is much less than the pay of this short-term officer ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"He is already in our service, Sir. He is on that pay."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I know whether in view of the higher qualifications he has got now his salary is not going to be increased ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"That is a matter for further consideration, Sir."

Proposed reorganization of the Agricultural department.

* 1921 *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are proposals to reorganize the Agricultural department;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the European Junior Deputy Director was put on special duty to draft a scheme for reorganization of the department in preference to the senior officers, and whether any scheme has been submitted to Government in his name;

(*c*) what are his qualifications for such special work; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that a major portion of his short service was spent in planting districts and that his experience of the Agricultural department is less than that of the juniormost officer in the Indian Agricultural Service ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) "No". Mr. Munro was put on special duty not to draft any scheme of reorganization but to render such assistance to the Director of Agriculture in his work as would enable him to have the necessary time to draft a comprehensive programme of work and development for the department.

(*c*) & (*d*) A more senior officer better experienced in district work is more useful in the district than he would be in a purely ministerial capacity, the duties of which were very adequately performed by the officer in question.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I know, Sir, what is the salary that Mr. Munro gets now in his new position ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"There is no new position for him at all, Sir."